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Directorate of
Intelligence



China: Plutonium Production Reactor Problems

A Research Paper



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Exemptions: (b)(1), (b)(3)

Introduction

temporarily while components were designed and fabricated.

China's Production Reactor

Soviet Role

In the mid-1950s, the Soviet Union secretly agreed to help China develop the capability to build and deliver nuclear weapons. This agreement began to fall apart in June 1959.

China already had been provided with plans, equipment, and technical aid the production of nuclear weapons. One facility started under this agreement was a plutonium-production complex near the city of Yumen, the state operated (now Ministry of Nuclear Industry) 404 Factory.

China Finishes Alone

The Soviet departure left the reactor project in a difficult situation. None of the key components had been received, and the project was forced to halt.

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